

CALIFORNIA OFF-HIGHWAY MOTOR VEHICLE RECREATION COMMISSION

MEETING MINUTES
RED LION HOTEL – YOSEMITE ROOM
1401 ARDEN WAY
SACRAMENTO, CA 95815

JANUARY 22, 2005

(MINUTES APPROVED APRIL 15, 2005 AS PRESENTED)

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

Paul J. Spitler, Chair
Robert F. Chavez, Vice-Chair
Judith A. Anderson
John E. Brissenden
Michael F. Prizmich
Harold M. Thomas
Edward H. Waldheim

DIVISION STAFF PRESENT

Tim La Franchi, Legal Counsel, DPR
Daphne C. Greene, Deputy Director, OHMVR Division
Anthony I. Perez, Chief, OHMVR Division
Rick LeFlore, Superintendent IV, OHMVR Division
Jess Cooper, Superintendent III, OHMVR Division
Joan Grammer, Senior Park and Recreation Specialist, OHMVR Division
Julie D. Hom, Staff Park and Recreation Specialist, OHMVR Division
Lowell Landowski, Associate Park and Recreation Specialist, OHMVR Division
Lisa McClung, Associate Park and Recreation Specialist, OHMVR Division
Felicia Miller, Associate Park and Recreation Specialist, OHMVR Division
David Quijada, Associate Park and Recreation Specialist, OHMVR Division
Clark Woy, Associate Park and Recreation Specialist, OHMVR Division
Kathleen E. Mick, Deputy Director's Assistant-Special Projects, OHMVR Division
Tom Ward, Recreation Manager, OHMVR Division
Steve Christensen, Senior Land Agent, OHMVR Division
Don F. Hoirup, Jr., California Geological Survey
John Horn, District Superintendent, Hollister Hills District, OHMVR Division
Andy Zilke, Acting Dist. Superintendent, Oceano Dunes District, OHMVR Division
Kathy Dolinar, District Superintendent, Ocotillo Wells District, OHMVR Division
Bob Williamson, Assistant Superintendent, Twin Cities District, OHMVR Division

Laurie J. Taylor, Executive Secretary, OHMVR Division
Sandra J. Elder, Commission Assistant, OHMVR Division

REGISTERED VISITORS

Fred Wiley, Cal-Nevada Snowmobile Association
Rob Griffith, Stanislaus NF
Rich Williams, BLM Bishop
Tom Tammone, Irvine, California
Peter W. Huebner, Sierra County Board of Supervisors
Don Amador, BRC
David Sumi, Center for Collaborative Policy
Dana Nichol, Pete Conaty & Associates
Don Klusman, CA4WDC
Ed Moore, USFS
Sky Zaffarano, BLM
Jim Weigand, BLM California State Office, Sacramento
Chuck James, Stanislaus NF
Alex Seyedi, Friends of Metcalf Motorcycle Park
John Stewart, CA4WDC
Barry Jones, CNSA
Felicidad Munro, Sacramento
Sylvia Milligan, CNSA – ROC
Robert Andrews, Lassen NF
Ahmad Inad, West Sacramento
Bruce Brazil, CERA, Hayward
Mike Ruhstorfer, Santa Clara County Parks & Recreation
Jay Dobler, Rancho Cordova
Dick & Cheryl Taylor, Kern OHV Association
Lisa Killough, Director, Santa Clara County Parks
Lonnie Allison, Stanislaus NF
Terry Woodrow, Alpine County Board of Supervisors
Dave Pickett, Dist. 36 Motorcycle Sports Committee
Eric Lamb, Calaveras County Sheriff's Dept.
Elizabeth Norton, Lassen NF
Heath Wakelee, Audubon Society
Jakkak Pierre, Carmichael
Dan Peterson, CORVA
Duane Jackson, BLM Susanville
Gary Barnett, USFS, LEO Tahoe NF
Betty Morris, Winter Recreation Committee
Jim Keeler, BLM California State Office, Sacramento
Doug Frazer, Forest Knolls

Eric Outfleet, Madera County Sheriff's Dept.
Jeff Sanford, Alpine County Sheriff's Dept.
Deb Schoeyberg, Plumas
Paul McFarland, Friends of the Inyo, Bishop
Ellie Corona, CORVA

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Spitler called the meeting to order at 9:20 a.m., in the Yosemite Room, Red Lion Hotel, 1401 Arden Way, Sacramento, California 95815.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Spitler led the meeting attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

All seven members were present.

Chair Spitler said, "We have a couple orders of business we're hoping to get through today. The first is to finish up on some business items from past meetings including finishing this years grant process and the second and potentially more importantly is to discuss commission priorities for the upcoming grant cycle. So this is an opportunity for all of you, the public, to offer your input into where you think the commission should allocate it's resources in the coming grant cycle and we welcome that opportunity. I think all of us appreciate you coming out today, are looking forward to hearing what you have to say and looking forward to your input in how we can improve and strengthen this great program."

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Commissioner Waldheim moved and Commissioner Anderson seconded the motion to approve the agenda as presented. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Waldheim made the motion and Commissioner Anderson seconded the motion to approve the minutes as presented. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

CALENDAR

Commissioner Waldheim moved and Commissioner Anderson seconded the motion to adopt the following meeting schedule for the year 2005:

February 4, 2005 – Sacramento
April 15, 2005 – Sacramento
August 5, 2005 – Sacramento
September 9, 2005 – Riverside
October 21, 2005 – Sacramento
November 18, 2005 – San Diego

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. 2004-05 NORTHERN CALIFORNIA LOCAL ASSISTANCE GRANT AND COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS

OR-2-ST-59 – STANISLAUS NF, DEV. INTERFACE 05

Original amount requested: \$290,000, revised by applicant to \$99,080.

Staff recommended amount: \$0

Tabled at the October 29, 2004 meeting until CEQA documentation could be completed.

Rob Griffith, Stanislaus National Forest, informed the Commission that after further review, they reduced their requested amount to \$99,080.

Chair Spitler moved and Commissioner Brissenden seconded the motion that OR-2-ST-59 be approved for \$120,000.

Commissioner Waldheim made an amended motion and Commissioner Prizmich seconded that OR-2-ST-59 be approved for \$99,000.

The following people spoke:

Dave Pickett, Dist. 36 Motorcycle Sports Committee, supports requested amount

Karen Schambach, PEER, supports requested amount contingent upon funding for non-motorized trails becoming available from other sources

Don Klusman, CA4WDC, supports requested amount

Chair Spitler called for a roll-call vote on the amended motion:

Anderson – nay
Brissenden – nay
Chavez – aye
Spitler – nay
Thomas – nay
Prizmich – aye
Waldheim - aye

MOTION FAILED WITH THREE AYES, FOUR NAYS.

Chair Spitler then called for the vote on the original motion:

Anderson – aye
Brissenden – aye
Chavez – nay
Spitler – aye
Thomas – aye
Prizmich – aye
Waldheim - nay

MOTION CARRIED WITH FIVE AYES AND TWO NAYS.

OR-2-SR-25 – SIX RIVERS NF, DEVELOPMENT 05

Amount requested: \$127,000. Staff recommended amount: \$36,000.

Commissioner Brissenden moved and Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion that OR-2-SR-25 be given zero funding.

Chair Spitler called for the vote. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

OR-718 – MENDOCINO RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Previously approved item.

Chair Spitler stated the item was being reintroduced only to accept public input.
No public comment.

B. RECONSIDERATION OF 2004-05 NORTHERN CALIFORNIA LOCAL ASSISTANCE GRANT AND COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS

OR-698 – SANTA CLARA COUNTY PARKS, O&M 05

Amount requested: \$327,000. Staff recommended amount: \$220,000.

Commissioner Anderson moved and Commissioner Prizmich seconded the motion to reconsider the \$149,000 grant approved at the October 29, 2004 meeting.

Chair Spitler called for the vote. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Chair Spitler moved and Commissioner Prizmich seconded the motion that OR-698 be increased by \$70,000 (law enforcement and facilities).

Commissioner Waldheim made an amended motion and Commissioner Chavez seconded that OR-698 be increased by \$40,000 (law enforcement).

The following people spoke in support of increased funding:

Mike Ruhstorfer, Santa Clara County Parks, indicated if additional funding was not approved, they would have to consider closing Metcalf Motorcycle Park.

Alex Seyedi, Friends of Metcalf Motorcycle Park, supported keeping park open

Lisa Killough, Director, Santa Clara County Parks, supported staff recommendation

Don Amador, BRC, supports keeping county park open

Dave Pickett, Dist. 36 Motorcycle Sports Committee, supported keeping county park open

Bruce Brazil, CERA, supported keeping county park open

Chair Spitler called for a roll call vote on the amended motion or \$40,000:

Anderson – aye
Brissenden - nay
Chavez – aye
Spitler – nay
Thomas – aye
Prizmich – nay
Waldheim - aye

MOTION CARRIED WITH FOUR AYES AND THREE NAYS.

Chair Spitler then called for a roll call vote on the original motion, which is now in the amount of \$40,000 additional for OR-698:

Anderson – aye
Brissenden – nay
Chavez – aye
Spitler – aye
Thomas – aye
Prizmich – aye
Waldheim - aye

MOTION CARRIED WITH SIX AYES AND ONE NAY.

OR-1-H-10 – BLM HOLLISTER FIELD OFFICE, O&M 05

Amount requested: \$418,000. Staff recommended amount: \$335,000.

Commissioner Waldheim moved and Commissioner Chavez seconded the motion to reconsider the \$150,000 approved at the October 29, 2004 for OR-1-H-10.

Chair Spitler called for the vote. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Commissioner Waldheim moved and Commissioner Chavez seconded the motion to increase OR-1-H-10 by an additional \$30,000.

The following people spoke:

Brian White, Clear Creek Project Coordinator, BLM Hollister Field Office,
In support the additional funding

Don Klusman, CA4WDC, in support additional funding for law
enforcement

Barry Jones, 4WD & Rock Collector, in support additional funding

Karen Schambach, PEER, in support additional funding

John Stewart, CA4WDC, in support additional funding

Dave Pickett, Dist. 36 Motorcycle Sports Committee, felt Commission
does not always support law enforcement

Ellie Corona, CORVA, in support additional funding

Chair Spitler called for the vote. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Commissioner Anderson requested a breakdown of funds allotted to the BLM Hollister Field Office. She also requested information on the number of parks which have been purchased with OHV grant funds that included some form of agreement or understanding for funds to support it.

Deputy Director Greene stated staff would be happy to provide this information.

Commissioner Brissenden observed that in the last grant cycle there were rescope monies available. This year he saw none. He commended staff for cleaning up that process, but wondered if there might be some rescoping money of which the Commission might not be aware. He requested that available rescope dollars be shown with each grant.

Deputy Director Greene indicated she would see if this could be done.

C. APPROVAL OF JOINT COMMITTEE LETTER

Deputy Director Greene asked DPR Legal Counsel, Tim La Franchi, to explain the Governor's California Performance Review as it affected the Commission.

Mr. La Franchi informed the Commission that the California Performance Review Commission had made several recommendations; including a recommendation that the OHMVR Commission be dissolved and its functions absorbed within the Division of the Department of Parks and Recreation. The recommendations were now before the Little Hoover Commission. If the Little Hoover Commission accepts the recommendations package, those recommendations would be forwarded to the Legislature. He indicated that the list of boards and commissions recommended for dissolution would be considered as a single package. In the event of legislative action, there would be statutory changes adopted that would abolish the OHMVR Commission.

Commissioner Chavez asked for the timeline on the recommendations that are before the Little Hoover Commission.

Deputy Director Greene agreed to keep the Commission informed about the bill number and the schedule of hearings.

Commission members indicated their desire for a resolution to be adopted at the next meeting requesting the OHMVR Commission not be included in Governor's package. Chair Spitler asked that this be placed on the agenda for the February 4, 2005 meeting.

Commissioner Chavez informed the Commissioners that the letter Chairman Spitler sent to Joint Committee on Boards, Commissions and Consumer Protection (JCBCCP) on October 1, 2004 in response to JCBCCP's questionnaire was reviewed. There were several places that the information should be changed as well as the letter should be in the third person and not the first person.

Commissioner Waldheim requested the committee of Commissioners Chavez and Thomas draft a follow-up letter reflecting all of the Commissioners' opinions.

Chair Spitler thanked Commissioners Chavez and Thomas for their review and comments. He requested the Commission members email their comments to Commissioner Chavez so that the follow-up letter will reflect all the Commissioner's feelings.

Chair Spitler requested that this be an item on the February 4, 2005 agenda.

Public Comment

Bruce Brazil, CERA, requested the JCBCCP letter be put on the Commission's website.

Don Amador, BRC, stated, that the statement in the letter about California being an OHV model for other states, is not true as currently administered.

Chair Spitler recessed the meeting for a break at 11:10 a.m.

Reconvened the meeting at 11:40 a.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT, AGENDIZED AT 10:00 A.M.

Dick Taylor, Kern County OHV Association, expressed the Kern OHV Association's appreciation for the off-road support that the Commission is providing.

Barry Jones, CNSMA, said that his club structure keeps off-roading safe, does not intrude on wilderness, does not trash the environment, and does not harass wildlife. He asked the Commission to look at the liability insurance issues (Vermont and New York have passed legislation). He asked the Commission to change the tort laws on recreation so that insurance companies will insure California club events and make it easier for state and federal government to take care of liability issues. He would like to see this as a future agenda item as a potential policy to direct the state legislation.

Commissioner Prizmich stated that the skateboard parks have a model liability insurance package that might provide a template to copy.

Don Klusman, CA4WDC, agreed with Mr. Jones' statement that liability needs to be addressed. CA4WDC does a lot of training with four-wheel drive vehicles, but currently the only place they can afford to train at the State Parks SVRAs, because they cannot provide the insurance that the federal government or private individuals want.

Commissioner Thomas asked Mr. Klusman if he would support a requirement that the federal agencies have a long-term law enforcement plan, as a pre-condition of Commission funding?

Mr. Klusman did not know if such a plan was the answer, but thought it would be information that the Commission and the public should have.

Don Amador, BRC, informed the Commission that Congress is looking at the Outdoor Recreation Act during its current session. The Act will generate support for increased funding in recreation. In particular, Congressman Walden in Oregon has taken on trail funding as his own personal crusade. It is Mr. Amador's personal goal for federal agencies not have to come before the Commission to ask for funding.

Commissioner Waldheim asked if staff knew the in-lieu amounts that each county received in the past and when would the new formula based on the new law take place?

Commissioner Brissenden asked if staff could add in-lieu information to each grant cycle, just as a piece of information?

Deputy Director Greene responded that with passage of AB 2666, the in-lieu fund numbers did change, but due to some conflicting legislation the mechanism to distribute funds to the local agencies is not currently in place. The Division is working with the Controller's Office to make sure that the issue gets resolved and cities and counties receive the adjusted in-lieu funding.

Commissioner Waldheim asked if there was a mechanism to establish where users went.

Deputy Director Greene responded that staff could come back to the Commission with a report that identified how visitation numbers are made, what the account is, and the identification of funds.

Doug Frazer, Bear Valley, commented on the importance of seeking public comment. His community had been working with the Forest Service to help them realize the impacts of winter grooming to their area. In this year's grant cycle, the community requested that the Forest Service allocate funds for signage, maps, and improved enforcement. Some money came through a budget change proposal, so the Commission was bypassed for funding for grants. Instead the money came directly from the Division, eliminating the opportunity for substantive public comment. There was no provision for maps or signage or pressure from the Division on the Forest Service to keep working with the community.

John Stewart, CA4WDC, thanked the Commission for past support for recreation opportunities, such as Prairie City, Riverside, and Onyx Ranch, which need continued support to become viable entities. He also commented that California receives a lot of its recreation visitation from residents of Nevada and the Phoenix area. He said law enforcement efforts should provide education, signage, and on-the-ground information with maps to bring information not only

to Californians but also to the entire recreating public that come to California's mountains and deserts.

Karen Schambach, speaking as an individual, thanked the Commission for taking input on the public's priorities for funding. She also thought that the fuel tax survey would determine where the money would be distributed with regards to AB 2666, which transfers in-lieu money from county of origin to county of use. She liked the idea of having that amount shown in the application to be sure that the counties are using the in-lieu money for those purposes.

Paul McFarland, Friends of the Inyo, indicated that California's Green Sticker Program must be one of the most talked about, sought after, and misunderstood programs in the state. He believed that this project is leading the nation, citing the route designation process presently occurring in Region 5 as an example. He stated the public has been waiting for this project since the days of President Nixon. Now decades later through the leadership of Region 5 and the Commission, there is finally a designated system of routes.

Dave Pickett, Dist. 36 Motorcycle Sports Committee, citing USA Today magazine, stated there were one million new motorcycle registrations last year, not including ATVs, which are running 2 to 1. Last year, Californians again chose OHV as their form of recreation. He urged the Commission to have vision regarding purchase opportunities to increase OHV opportunity, as was done last year with 210 acres at Prairie City. OHV recreation continues to grow, and we must address increased opportunities for the future.

Commissioner Thomas asked Mr. Pickett if he would support the Commission reducing money going to federal operations and increasing the amount of land purchase for state vehicle parks?

Mr. Pickett responded by saying that was a pretty broad brush. He would rather look at everything on the table. As ridership increases, there will also be more fuel tax, more registration fees, and more park entrance fees. It should be somewhat self-funding.

Heath Wakelee, Sierra Foothills Audubon Society, thanked the Commission for its national leadership in noise reduction with relation to OHVs. This Commission funded a study that was recently completed and a report is in progress right now that will further support the Commission's work in noise limits. The Commission is a leader in the nation with regards to noise.

Bruce Brazil, CERA, stated that he noticed on the Commission's website that there are Commissioner's terms which expire this month. He wondered if the Commissioners whose terms are up would consider continuing to serve?

Commissioner Waldheim stated members of the Off Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Commission serve on behalf of the appoint agency. When their term is up, they continue to serve until replaced or reappointed.

Chair Spitler asked Division Chief Perez to introduce members of the OHMVR Division who are present. He introduced John Horn, District Superintendent, Hollister Hills District; Bob Williamson, Assistant Superintendent, Twin Cities District; Andy Zilke, Acting District Superintendent, Oceano Dunes District; Kathy Dolinar, District Superintendent, Ocotillo Wells District; Steve Christensen, Senior Land Agent; Julie Hom, Grants and Winter Program Manager; Felicia Miller, Grants Administrator for BLM; Lisa McClung, Grants Administrator for USFS; Clark Woy, Grants Administrator for locals; and David Quijada, Grants Administrator for the Winter Program.

Chair Spitler informed the audience that Tony Perez will be leaving OHMVR Division and will be the Southern Field Division Chief of the Department of Parks and Recreation. He commended Tony on an outstanding job dealing with a difficult program.

Chair Spitler recessed the meeting for lunch at 12:15 p.m.

During the lunch break Commissioner Chavez left the meeting.

Chair Spitler reconvened the meeting at 1:40 p.m. and continued with the agenda.

NEW BUSINESS

LAW ENFORCEMENT RESOLUTION

Chair Spitler asked Commissioner Brissenden to speak on the law enforcement resolution.

Commissioner Brissenden indicated that the bail schedule has been discussed for 2 ½ years in the Law Enforcement Subcommittee. He extended his thanks to Dr. Farrington, U. S. Forest Service, for all the work he and his staff did to prepare this resolution.

Commissioner Anderson moved and Commissioner Brissenden seconded the motion to adopt a resolution concerning U.S. Forest Service Bail Schedule (see Attachment A).

The following people spoke:

John Stewart, CA4WDC, felt the adoption premature, as there was no input from BLM.

Commissioner Brissenden clarified with Mr. Keeler that he understood BLM had been involved in the process, but was unable to endorse it.

Karen Schambach, PEER, indicated she was on the committee and strongly urged the passage of this resolution.

Don Klusman, CA4WDC, wanted to thank all who participated in the preparation of the resolution and strongly supports it.

Tom Tammone, individual, said the modifying of the bail schedule was long overdue and supports the resolution.

Chair Spitler called for the vote. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

GRANT EVALUATION PROCESS FOR CONSIDERATION

DIVISION PRESENTATION OF PROPOSAL AND CRITERIA FOR 2005/06 GRANT EVALUATION PROCESS

Deputy Director Greene thanked the Commission for the opportunity to present the proposed grant evaluation process. Items addressed are:

1. Commission approved (2003) new policies that have not yet been put into regulation.
2. Passage of AB 2666.
3. Procedural items that do not belong in regulations.

Staff has worked with the Commission, stakeholders, and the public to improve upon the existing competitive process.

She also stated that the Division is seeking the Commission's input as to its priorities for the Division, for the grant applicants, and for the public. This would then facilitate more clarity and help the Commission to receive quality grants.

Kathleen Mick, Deputy Director's Assistant-Special Projects, gave a Power Point presentation (see Attachment B) on the desired roles and decisions of the Commission in the proposed grant evaluation process, including: 1) Commission vote and adoption of preliminary funding levels for CESA (Conservation,

Enforcement, and Restoration) and non-CESA, 2) vote and adoption of grant evaluation criteria and point scoring system, and 3) vote and adoption of funding guidelines.

Commissioner Anderson felt that for the grant process the total number of points awarded should not be more than 50. She also wanted to see a category or bonus points for applicants that are innovative and do not fall in previously defined categories.

Commissioner Brissenden felt there should be a review of the track record in the grant review process. He strongly felt the need for an on-the-ground review and evaluation. He felt the Commissioners were not currently receiving accurate information.

Commissioner Thomas said, "I have always viewed government functions as inherently subjective because politics is first and foremost a science of subjective understanding, meaning what we agree on today may be different tomorrow. Any kind of objective system where you rank and substitute numbers for judgments is really only a mask for likes and dislikes. Attempting to make this an objective system is inherently doomed to failure; all we will do is adjust an objective system to meet with our subjective needs." He felt this criteria proposal for grant evaluation should go before the stakeholders

Commissioner Prizmich did not think the proposed process would speed things up or make things more equitable. He stated he liked the existing process. He said it was incumbent on Commissioners to review the applications, be knowledgeable, either come to consensus or not, and move forward.

Commissioner Waldheim stated he was delighted with the comments made. He said that the staff was doing great work to think out of the box. He felt each grant should be evaluated on its own merit.

Commissioner Waldheim also stated that he basically hates boxes, hates numbers, and hates things that give a feeling that there will be a substitute for the good old hard work. He said, "What is meant by hard work? When the Commission receives a recommendation from staff, I expect that grant recommendation to be the most important piece of work that they we Commissioners can review because staff is being paid to follow the grant."

He also indicated the burden is on the user community to work with the agency to make sure they have good programs and applications. Staff should be trained so all applications are reviewed the same way.

Chair Spitler said that he had worked with Deputy Director Greene towards developing the process. Initially, he had the skeptical view of the other Commissioners. He still shared many concerns, but fewer than previously experienced. He now saw upsides of the proposed evaluation process as two fold: 1) The evaluation process would add considerable transparency to the process, and 2) ties to that, potentially more importantly, it offers the Commission an opportunity to establish priorities upfront in the grant cycle, rather than at the tail end of the process.

He further stated that he knew that Commissioner Waldheim was frustrated last year that there weren't requests submitted by applicants on trail maintenance. Chair Spitler believed that if the Commission established upfront trail maintenance as a priority, with a goal to be funded at a certain level, it would send a message to potential grantees that we want to see those kinds of applications.

Commissioner Thomas asked if the regulations excerpts, in draft as part of their handout packet, were proposed, Division, or Commission regulations?

Deputy Director Greene said that they are Division regulations, which govern the grant program and incorporate the Commission's policies, which were adopted in 2003. They provided the legal basis for looking at the grants to be able to have criteria by which the Division could move forward and address those policies now put into regulation.

Chair Spitler asked Lisa Beutler, facilitator from the center for Collaborative Policy, to conduct the Public Input (Step 2) session.

At 3:15 p.m. the audience and Commission members divided into three groups to discuss further priorities (Step 2).

Commissioner Thomas left the meeting at 3:30 p.m.

See Attachment C for information on Public Input (PRC Section 50909.24 {f}), Step 2.

Chair Spitler called the meeting back to order at 4:00 p.m., and thanked Ms. Beutler and the public for a very helpful exercise.

COMMISSION ESTABLISHES FUNDING LEVELS FOR CESA AND NON-CESA CATEGORIES.

Chair Spitler felt that the next goal should be for the Commission to establish funding targets for the four main categories: Conservation, Law Enforcement,

Restoration Projects, and non CESA Projects. This would be to let the Division, members of the public, and potential grantees know what the Commission is looking for in the next grant cycle.

After much discussion Commission Prizmich moved and Commissioner Brissenden seconded the motion to adopt the following priorities/levels of funding:

Conservation	\$1.4 million	
Regional Wildlife Studies		\$1 million
Resource Management		\$.4 million
Law Enforcement	\$3.0 million	
Restoration	\$7.3 million	
Other	\$6.3 million	
Route Designation		\$2 million
Total	\$18 million	

Staff informed the Commission that legislation mandates \$8.6 million be used for restoration. Also there is a prior obligation of \$6.9 million available for restoration.

The following people spoke concerning the Commission's priorities and levels of funding:

Don Amador, BRC, was in favor of \$3 million for law enforcement, but felt \$1.2 million should be for studies and at least \$4.5 million for trail maintenance. He stated that there is a need for law enforcement as well as trail maintenance.

Karen Schambach, PEER, supported the funding level for law enforcement as well as the \$1 million for Wildlife Studies.

Barry Jones, CNSA, indicated that there should be more funding for law enforcement and trail maintenance.

Chair Spitler called for the vote. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

COMMISSION DEVELOPS GRANT EVALUATION CRITERIA AND POINT SCORE SYSTEM FOR GRANT APPLICATIONS

The following people spoke on the proposed evaluation criteria:

Don Klusman, CA4WDC, indicated that as a result of the public input from the three groups, the public wants to know what the Commission prefers to fund.

Also felt that the panel that evaluates the applications should consist of staff and public not members of the Commission. It is not so important whether it is a five member or a seven-member panel.

Fred Wiley, CNSA, felt the Commission should look very hard at the Division's proposal. This process would help the applicant prepare the application. Also felt a five-year plan would be helpful.

Tom Tammone, individual, liked having two Commission members on the panel so that more grants can be on the consent calendar.

John Stewart, CA4WDC, felt staff would have a struggle to come up with a criteria/evaluation point system that will create a competitive process and will provide a semblance of accountability over the long run. He is encouraged that the Commission and Division are looking at steps to moving forward. He supports Deputy Director Greene's attempts to bring this process to fruition.

Deputy Director Greene stated that the Division had worked very hard with staff from other commissions' grant evaluation processes and competitive scoring. She indicated the proposed evaluation process was not arbitrarily developed.

Bill Rugg, CNSA, felt there were other ways to establish priorities by using predictability, accountability, and transparency.

Barry Jones, CNSA, stated he liked the scoring proposal, though the points range was too high. He was concerned that they tried to shoe horn Commission policies into categories that weren't meant to do that.

Jim Miller, Friends of Jawbone, liked the Division's process and would like to see priorities in each group.

Paul McFarland, Friends of the Inyo, indicated that public support of grants should be included in application to insure better competitive grants. Priorities go from audience to Commission. Enforcement and accountability are a problem.

Dave Pickett, CA4WDC, stated the points process has merit, as the existing system is broken. Money is needed to go on the ground. Need more Commission priorities. Give Division's evaluation process a chance.

Karen Schambach, PEER, felt two more criteria should be added, past performance and public input. Panel should consist of public and staff instead of Commission members. Grants are mostly the same because people know what they need.

Eric Outfleet, Madera County Sheriff's Dept., indicated that an applicant should be able to ask staff if anything is missing. Applications should be written for the public needs.

Heath Wakelee, Sierra Foothill Audubon, felt the Commission might have to further define what words mean, such as "unique issue" or "efficient use."

Dick Taylor, Kern OHV Association, expressed support for the proposed criteria process and evaluations.

Elizabeth Norton, Lassen NF, felt the evaluation process will be cumbersome. Would the criteria change what should be in the application? Projects come from the ground up but priorities and funding come from the top down.

Commissioner Waldheim suggested Division have a workshop on preparation of grants. He indicated that the grant applications are due in May. He thanked the Division for what they are doing.

Commissioner Anderson indicated her priorities were:

- Conservation – Wildlife and Habitat Studies
- Trail Stabilization
- Law Enforcement – Field Patrols, etc.
- Equipment
- Will look at Restoration
- Planning
- Route Designation, to be done and then restoration, planning
- Other – trail maintenance, equipment, acquisition (land)

Chair Spitler appointed Commissioner Waldheim and himself as the Grants Sub Committee.

Deputy Director Greene informed the Commission that Ken Pogue, Deputy Attorney General, was not present as he was enjoying his honeymoon. She indicated that the next time the Commission members saw Ken, they could congratulate him.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss Chair Spitler asked that a motion be made to adjourn the meeting.

Commissioner Anderson moved and Commissioner Brissenden seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting 5:30 p.m.

Chair Spitler called for the motion. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Anthony I. Perez, Chief
California State Parks
OHMVR Division

Sandra J. Elder
Commission Assistant
OHMVR Division